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Protests kill CIA interviews at Temple

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The Central Intelligence Agency canceled plans to interview students at Temple University today for positions in its operations because it expected a protest demonstration.

The resumes of Temple graduates who had registered to meet with CIA recruiters will be sent to the agency's Philadelphia office, said George Cronk, director of the university's career services center.

Cronk said he had contacted the CIA's campus recruiters last week by telephone and later in a letter, informing them about the anti-CIA sentiment building at the North Philadelphia campus.

Protesters said they objected to the agency's presence on campus because of previous reports that the CIA was involved in such activities as the alleged plotting of assassinations of foreign political leaders and spying on U.S. citizens.

Before the cancellation, which wasn't announced, Cronk said someone had torn down a sheet of paper posted at the center listing the names of students registered to see CIA recruiters. Later someone contacted the students by telephone to discourage them from keeping their appointments, Cronk said. He refused to specify how many students had registered for interviews.

But he said agency officials had stated a preference for computer science majors with master's and doctor's degrees.

Cronk said yesterday it was by mutual agreement that the students' resumes be sent to the CIA in place of campus interviews. "Our policy is that any legitimate employer has a right to recruit on campus. And the CIA is definitely a legitimate employer like any private or

government agency."

Last week, a campus group, Covert Action Research At Temple (CARAT), distributed an anti-CIA leaflet to university organizations, blasting the university for inviting the CIA recruiters and asking that they be banned from talking to students.

The leaflet also appealed to students not to register for interviews with the agency, which the group charged with the "violation of human rights the world over."

Also urging a ban was the Young Workers Liberation League, a student group.

Yesterday, both Felicia Woytak, a university senior, and the League's chairperson, and Sandy Meredith, a member of CARAT, who is a Temple graduate employed at the university as a librarian, said they were surprised and pleased by the cancellation.

Both women also denied knowledge of the vandalism at the careers center and attempts by telephone to dissuade student registrants from seeing CIA recruiters.

"Our group isn't out to destroy," Ms. Woytak said yesterday in a telephone interview.

Yesterday, a spokesperson at the CIA's Philadelphia office identified the chief campus recruiter for Temple as Dr. Lisa Allen, a personnel representative.

Dale Peterson, a spokesman for the agency's Washington office, yesterday said that since the 1960s, protests against CIA recruiters being on campus are at a "low point."

"We certainly are looking for the best applicants. We're analyzing situations in foreign countries and we need people in all academic disciplines — the sciences, technical fields, medicine," Peterson said.

Last year, he said, the agency received 90,000 applications for 1,000 openings.